

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT A 00317 101914Z

50

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

IO-10 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02 NSC-05 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

CEA-01 STR-01 H-01 /074 W  
----- 097004

O R 101831Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9247

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EF, IN, HA

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR HAITI

REF: WHEELER-BEHOTEGUY TELECON OF FEB 7, 1975

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN FAO REPORT, WE ASSUME IT POSTULATES THAT NO FOOD DEFICIT EXISTS IN HAITI, PRESUMABLY ON BASIS OF FACT THAT 1974 PRODUCTION OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS WAS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO DEMAND. HOWEVER, SUCH A CONCLUSION OVERLOOKS LONG-STANDING DIETARY DEFICIENCIES WHICH HAVE FORCED GOVERNMENT OVER PAST FEW YEARS TO GREATLY INCREASE IMPORTATION OF NON-INDIGENOUS FOODSTUFFS. EVEN WITH SUCH IMPORTATIONS HAITIAN LEVEL OF CALORIC INTAKE IS ONE OF LOWEST IN WORLD. THE PL/480 PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM OF IMPORTATIONS, AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE, BUT ONE WHOSE CONTINUED EXISTENCE HAS BEEN PLACED IN JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF THE COUNTRY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONDITION. END SUMMARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT A 00317 101914Z

2. HAITIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND DEMAND. HAITIAN

PRODUCTION OF CUSTOMARY FOOD PRODUCTS (MANIOC, SWEET POTATOES, CORN AND RICE) HAS GENERALLY MET CONSUMER DEMAND IN MARKET PLACE, BUT MALNUTRITION AND LOW LEVEL OF CALORIE INTAKE ARE BETTER RELECTIONS OF TRUE FOOD NEEDS. NO CHANGE IN THIS PRODUCTION SITUATION OCCURRED IN 1974, EXCEPT FOR CORN PRODUCTION, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY ONE-TWELFTH BELOW USUAL LEVELS BECAUSE OF DROUGHT, FLOODS AND INSECT INFESTATION. HOWEVER, IN 1974, AS IN PAST 5 YEARS, HAITI HAS HAD TO IMPORT INCREASING AMOUNTS OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR IN ORDER TO MEET THE MINIMUM DIETARY NEEDS OF ITS GROWING POPULATION. EVEN WITH THESE IMPORTS, HAITIAN CALORIE INTAKE IS STILL ONLY AT THE LEVEL OF BETWEEN 1700 AND 1800 CALORIES PER DAY. LATEST FIGURES ON WHEAT IMPORTS SHOW IMPORTS TRIPLING IN 5-YEAR TIME SPAN, I.E.: 1969/70, 31,285 TONS; 1970/71, 47,163 TONS; 1971/72, 53,176 TONS; 1972/73, 76,690 TONS; AND 1973/74, 99,663 TONS.

3. ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS. IN ADDITION TO IMPORTATION OF WHEAT (WHICH CANNOT BE PRODUCED IN HAITI), HAITIAN PRODUCTION IN TWO SPECIFIC AREAS, EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING MILK, IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET GROWING HAITIAN DEMAND. THUS EACH YEAR HAITI MUST MEET A LARGER IMPORTBILL FOR ESSENTIAL FOOD PRODUCTS. THE 1974 PRICE INCREASES IN WHEAT AND SOYBEAN OIL HAVE SHARPLY INCREASED THIS ALREADY GROWING IMPORT BILL.

4. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. MOST RECENT PROJECTION OF GOH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WERE FORWARDED TO DEPT BY LETTER (CARBONE/RHODES) ON DEC 31, 1974, AT WHICH TIME IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT A FURTHER DECLINE IN HAITIAN NET NATIONAL RESERVES WAS EXPECTED DURING 1975. THERE HAVE BEEN NO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT TIME, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SHARP DECLINE IN U.S. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST 2 MONTHS MAY CAUSE A STEEPER DECLINE IN HAITIAN RESERVES. FOR EXAMPLE, HAITIAN EXPORTS OF ASSEMBLED GOODS ARE EXPECTED TO DROP BECAUSE OF A DECLINE IN U.S. ORDERS. (THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN A REDUTION IN PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS SOME CLOSINGS, IN THE ASSEMBLY SECTOR.) IN ADDITION, THE DROP IN TOURIST RECEIPTS IS MORE ACUTE THAN EXPECTED. LATEST OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THE WINTER TOURIST SEASON INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH ARRIVALS MAY BE THE SAME OR SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN LAST YEAR, THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY HAS APPARENTLY DROPPED FROM 6 TO 3 DAYS. MORE RECENT REPORTS FROM HOTEL MANAGERS IND-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT A 00317 101914Z

CATE DROP IN HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE THIS MONTH IS EVEN SHARPER.

5. IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. BOTH GOH AND USG CONSIDER IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO BE A PRIORITY GOAL, AND ARE INCREASING THEIR EFFORTS IN THIS SECTOR. HOWEVER, SERIOUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES WILL GREATLY HAMPER GOH IN ITS EFFORTS. THE B/P ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY A PL-480 TITLE I PROGRAM WILL BE OF IMPORTANCE TO GOH IN MEETING ITS GOALS. IN ADDITION, A

GOOD SHARE OF THE SALES PROCEEDS FROM SUCH A PROGRAM WILL BE USED IN IMPROVING FOOD PRODUCTION. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE PROCEEDS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DEPOSITED IN A SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR RELEASE ONLY ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE OF BOTH RESPONSIBLE GOH OFFICIALS AND AIDREP. THUS USG WILL HAVE STRONG VOICE ON PROJECT AND INVESTMENT DECISIONS.)

6. BACKGROUND INFORMATION. PORT AU PRINCE TELEGRAMS 0876, 1424, 1493, 1885, 1946, 2058 AND 2323, ALL PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR REQUIRED BRIEFING OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.  
ISHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PL 480 TITLE 1, FOOD ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTA00317  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750048-0262  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabzcl.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 WHEELER-BEHOTEGUY, 75 TELECON OF FEB 7, 75 1975  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PL-480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR HAITI  
**TAGS:** EAID, EAGR, EFIN, US, HA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006